

THE STAGE AND ITS STARS

A Few Nights of Shaksperian Characters by the Popular Tragedian, Keene.

At the Park, with Baker, Dialect Comedy Will Be the Attraction—A Brilliant Operatic and Concert Season Promised—Notes.

The most notable dramatic event of the season thus far has been the engagement of the tragedian Mr. Thomas W. Keene, at the Grand Opera-house, which begins to-morrow night for four performances. With a return to perfect health Mr. Keene's Shaksperian impersonations are characterized by a dramatic force, intelligence and artistic grace that indicate that he is doing the best work of his professional career. He needs no special commendation to Indianapolis theater-goers, however, for he has played here often, and they recognize in him one of the best exponents of the legitimate drama of his day. In these times, when there is so much that is trivial on the stage, performances such as he gives will be unusually enjoyable. He has had the good sense, and taste as well, to surround himself by a company of thoroughly capable and well-drilled people, and the claim is made that his is the best company now playing tragedies. Among its members are Mr. George Learock, a fine actor of large experience, who was last season seen here as the star of the "Bencon" lights' company, Miss Louise Parnoy, who for several years has been a star on her own account in Shaksperian impersonations, Mrs. Baker, an actress of fine abilities, Mr. Arthur Elliott, Mr. Eugene Moore, Adolph Jackson, Carl Abrahm and others. The repertoire selected for the engagement here is one that commends itself. To-morrow night Mr. Keene will present "Richard III," which, by many, is considered his best part. Tuesday evening he will be seen as "Hamlet." At the Wednesday matinee he will play Mark Antony in "Julius Caesar," and his engagement will conclude Wednesday evening with "Richard III." The costumes, armor, and properties used in these plays were made for Mr. Keene in Europe, and of the finest pattern, and historically correct. His engagement is one of special interest to those who are admirers of the highest type of the dramatic art, and the attendance promises to be a commensurate with the merits of the attraction. Mr. Keene has not played here for two years, but is held in high regard. There will be no advance in price for his engagement, and since the sale opened there has been a good demand for seats.

Mr. P. F. Baker, more familiarly known as "Pete" Baker, formerly of Baker & Farron, begins a week's engagement at the Park to-morrow afternoon. This announcement will be sufficient in itself to attract the regular patrons of the house, for Baker is the most popular comedian who plays here. They will be especially interested to know that this season he has a new play, "The Emigrant," which is said to give him far better opportunities than did "Chris and Lena," and in which he is making a successful success. In it he introduces new songs, specialties and other attractive features. Baker is inimitable in himself, and he has an unusually clever company of comedians, among them Miss Lottie Miller, who is well liked here, Miss Marie Moraine, who will be remembered from last season, Miss Vira Walters, W. E. Hines, the Irish comedian, and others. "The Emigrant" will be given every afternoon and evening during the week, at the usual prices, and there is already a heavy advance sale for the opening performances.

The new Eden Musee, with its numerous curiosities, tableaux, figures, etc., was visited by a great many people last week. This week there will be other new features, and you can see them all, afternoon and evening, for only 10 cents.

Operatic and Concert Singers.

New York Mercury.

The most important event of the fashionable season will be the resumption of German grand opera at the Metropolitan, which occurs Nov. 23. On that night director Edmund C. Stanton will inaugurate what promises to be an interesting lyric term with Mozart's "Don Giovanni," by a company which will contain a majority of new and fresh voices. Mr. Stanton's list of productions contains twenty-five works by thirteen composers, and of these Lalo's "Le Roy d'Ys" and Brull's "Gold Heart" are among the novelties. Eminent Metropolitan managers, all of whom have been faithful, and it is not unlikely that the varied operatic menu announced will be served up with all the appetizing details of handsome dresses and appropriate stage settings. English opera will also seek fashionable recognition under the banner of Clara Louise Kellogg, who has organized an unusually good company. Simultaneously Signor Campanini will begin a term of operatic costume concert, with last season's favorites to add him. Then there will be the "Sed" and "Stuckey," Philharmonic Symphony and Oratorio Society's concert, besides others of lesser importance, to complete the list of coming winter night musical feasts. Dramatically, the impending season promises to be unusually brilliant, beginning with the Cagliostro-Hadley French company at Palmer's (Wallack's) Theater two weeks hence.

Gossip of the Stage.

Managers say that "Pete" Baker is the best-paying star that plays in the popular-price theaters.

Helen Bancroft will start for London, next month, to play a round of Shakspeare's heroines.

The Australian actors are forming a protective union in consequence of the low salaries paid in that colony.

Mr. Keene is the owner of the Roman toga so long worn by Edwin Forrest. He prizes it very highly.

Bolney Kinney is preparing the costumes and scenery for "Antony and Cleopatra," the most gorgeous ballet yet attempted in New York.

The Pacific slope has discovered a coming stage beauty in Lora Hollis, who is starting in that region with Ned Warner.

Professor Bartholomew equine paradox is the best of all the "horse" shows. His horses are marvels of sagacity and training.

Frank Daniels has purchased the "Rag Baby" from Hoyt & Thomas. He will alternate it with "Little Fock" later in the season.

Augustus Daly opens his New York season with "The Surprises of Divorce." It is expected that this will run all the year.

Harry Sargent, who brought Modjeska to London, has taken the Novelty Theater, London, for his new "sassy" star, Mrs. Churchill-Jodrell.

McKee Rankin's new play, "The Runaway Wife," has been very successful in Chicago. It is a version of Fred G. Maeder's play of "Wife and Child."

The Johnson & Slavin minstrel party is the prize company this season. Hugh Dougherty and other celebrities are with them, and they are doing a very fine business.

Mrs. Hilda Thomas, of this city, has made a hit in "Fashions," the new musical comedy by H. Grant Donnelly, author of "Natural Gas." The piece is a decided success.

Ferraro, the well-known impresario, has offered Tamagno, the tenor, \$250,000 for an American tour of six months, but the silver-voiced warbler wants \$300,000 and the earth.

The operatic embassy at Stockholm, Sweden, which was withdrawn last year, has been restored on condition that the management shall pension off the aged ladies of the ballet.

Edwin Booth and Lawrence Barrett will open the new California Theater May 13. Mr. Barrett laid the cornerstone of the old house, and with John McCullough, was its first manager.

An important engagement made by Manager Dickson, last week, is that of Mary Anderson for two nights in February. She will play "Winter's Tale," "Comedy and Tragedy," and "The Cup."

Charles H. Hoyt's new farce comedy, "A Brass Monkey," will receive its first New York production Oct. 13, at the Bijou Opera-house. The cast will include Charles Reed and Flora Walsh Hoyt.

"Captain Smith" is said to be a bigger success in London even than "Jim, the Peasant." It will be given its first American production at the Madison-square Theater.

Miss Amelia Rivers, author of "The Quick and the Dead," writes: "My next literary production will be a play, 'The Ethelwold,' and it is based on incident in English history prior to the reign of Henry II."

The seventh annual report of the Actors' Fund of America has just been issued in printed form, giving a detailed account of the standing of the organization, and exhibiting among other things

GENERAL LEW WALLACE.

The Home Life of the Famous Author—His Methods of Study and Work.

Crawfordsville Letter to St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

It is generally known that the celebrated author of "Ben-Hur" has been at his home in Crawfordsville during the past summer and spring, hard at work on his new novel. It is to be a story of Constantinople, about the time of the Janizaries, and prominent among its characters is a young Greek girl of surpassing grace and beauty. It is said by those who have been permitted to know the thread of the story that in power and dramatic force it will equal the most dramatic portions of "Ben-Hur." General Wallace is the most laborious and painstaking of writers, working all day frequently, and far into the night, then frequently rejecting wholly the results of his continued application. It has been frequently stated that Mrs. Wallace has been of great assistance to him in his literary work, and so far as confidence in his ability—a faith that did not lag even during the long winter years which elapsed before "The Fair God" was finally given to the world, she has been. But it is one of his peculiarities that he neither seeks nor desires assistance from any one. His work must be evolved from his own brain and every detail elaborated in his own mental workshop, over the entrance of which, figuratively speaking, are the words, "No admittance, keep out." Therefore he is entitled, individually, to the full measure of the success he has achieved, and cannot be called upon to divide the honors with anyone. During the summer of 1888-87 he lectured extensively upon the Turks, whom he admires greatly as a people, in almost all the Northern States and Canada, giving occasionally, on Sunday afternoons, readings in churches from "Ben-Hur." He regards lecturing the hardest work he ever did—and he has done a great deal in many fields—and confesses that he has never before been so natural in his rostrum. His personal popularity, however, was greatly increased, and in several cities, notably Boston, he was warmly and cordially received by the people. He has been invited to lecture gratis for the benefit of some church encumbered with the traditional church debt, and he has accepted. During the summer of 1888-87 he lectured extensively upon the Turks, whom he admires greatly as a people, in almost all the Northern States and Canada, giving occasionally, on Sunday afternoons, readings in churches from "Ben-Hur." He regards lecturing the hardest work he ever did—and he has done a great deal in many fields—and confesses that he has never before been so natural in his rostrum. His personal popularity, however, was greatly increased, and in several cities, notably Boston, he was warmly and cordially received by the people. He has been invited to lecture gratis for the benefit of some church encumbered with the traditional church debt, and he has accepted. During the summer of 1888-87 he lectured extensively upon the Turks, whom he admires greatly as a people, in almost all the Northern States and Canada, giving occasionally, on Sunday afternoons, readings in churches from "Ben-Hur." He regards lecturing the hardest work he ever did—and he has done a great deal in many fields—and confesses that he has never before been so natural in his rostrum. His personal popularity, however, was greatly increased, and in several cities, notably Boston, he was warmly and cordially received by the people. He has been invited to lecture gratis for the benefit of some church encumbered with the traditional church debt, and he has accepted.

His residence in Crawfordsville is a plain, brown farm-house, with two stories, with wide verandas, and is hidden from view by old-fashioned trees, in front of which is a broad lawn sloping down to the street. Behind the house is a grove of beeches, and under their shadows General Wallace may be seen about 5 o'clock in the afternoon, walking to and fro with long swinging strides, taking an hour's constitutional, after being all day at his desk. There are other trees about the house, and the windows of the dining-room, swaying nearly to the ground; and it is here of a summer evening that he loves to receive his friends, entertaining them with conversation as delightful as anything that he has written.

The interior of the house is comparatively plain; the floors are covered with fine matting, and the walls are hung with Turkish stuffs and there are heavily embroidered scarfs and table covers, inlaid tables, and other bric-a-brac about the place, suggestive of his sojourn in Constantinople.

Over the drawing-room mantel is the magnificent picture presented him by the Sultan—a Turkish princess, a girl of thirteen, with a creamy complexion, languid, oriental eyes and dusky hair, dressed in the native costume—yellow satin trousers, jacket of velvet with a loose trail of soft material. She sits cross-legged on a tiger skin, one cheek resting on the right hand, the other dimpled and with its taper fingers stretched upon the head of the tiger.

The picture was in the Royal Gallery, and the General, being an artist as well as a writer, was charmed with the Mexican romance, painted the picture and forwarded it to the author through his publishers. The phenomenal success of "Ben-Hur" continues. It was translated into French, Italian, Swedish and German, a Spanish translation is now in progress, and Mrs. Wallace received recently a letter from the head of some Eastern institution for the blind, asking her to intercede with the publishers, who had refused to let the edition be published with raised letters.

The General received some time ago specimens of a beautiful German edition of the novel which has just been published in Leipzig. It is printed on thick, white paper, in clear, black type, with a portrait, autograph and biographical sketch of the author. The artistic cover, upon which is the meeting of the Mazi in blue and gold, is a striking contrast to the inartistic and unattractive American editions.

The study in which most of the novel was written is upstairs, a large, well-lighted, airy room with an eastern and southern exposure. The floor is carpeted, and the walls are covered with a rug. The table stands on the rug—a table, not a desk—and is probably four feet in length by four in width. It is covered with heaps of paper and

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